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Saguaro National Park News Release

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SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK TO OFFER FREE ADMISSION FOR "GET OUTDOORS DAY" THIS SATURDAY, JUNE 9

Tucson, AZ – Get a head start on your summer fun with free admission to Saguaro National Park this Saturday, June 9. In celebration of National Get Outdoors Day, all 397 national parks, including Saguaro National Park will waive entrance fees.

"Outdoor physical activity is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle and Saguaro National Park is a great place to get out and explore our many trails and programs," said Superintendent Darla Sidles. "I do strongly encourage all visitors to enjoy our public lands but also urge caution for sun exposure and high temperatures. We want everyone to have a safe and fun Get Outdoors Day."

High temperatures are a reminder of the dangers our Southern Arizona outdoor environment poses during the summer months. All visitors should take safety measures and recognize the signs of heat exhaustion. Try to plan outdoor activities before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m. and ALWAYS have plenty of water when participating in outdoor activities. It is recommended to drink at least 1 gallon of water per 6 hours of hiking and rest often when in the heat.

National Get Outdoors Day, now in its fifth year, encourages Americans, especially youth, to participate in outdoor activities while enjoying the beauty of public lands such as national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges.

President Barack Obama has proclaimed the month of June as <u>Great Outdoors Month</u> and encourages all Americans to share in the natural splendor of which we are all proud inheritors.

In addition to National Get Outdoors Day, Saguaro National Park will waive its \$10 entrance fee on four more days in 2012 – September 29 (National Public Lands Day) and November 10 to 12 (Veterans Day weekend).

If you are planning a trip that includes multiple national parks, you might consider the \$80 annual pass that provides entrance to all national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests, and many other Federal lands – more than 2,000 in all. This America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass is offered free to all active duty military members and their dependents. Information on these and other pass options is available online. Saguaro National Park also offers an annual pass for the park for \$25.

For more information on Saguaro National Park, please visit the park's web site at www.nps.gov/sagu.

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